Situation on India-Pakistan borders

1151. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's latest assessment of the situation on India-Pakistan borders; and

(b) what steps have been taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) The tension which had developed along the India-Pakistan borders, in January this year, because of Pakistan moving the bulk of its forces close to the border is gradually de-escalating as a result of the agreement reached between the two countries in official level talks.

Projects for West Bengal, Haryana and Kerala

1152. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had recently announced the clearance of some important projects for West Bengal, Haryana and Kerala with financial commitment running into several hundered crores;

(b) if so, whether these projects have since been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan and in the annual plans of the States for the year 1987-88; and

(c) if not, what is the status of those projects and the sources of the funds available for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister had recently announced packges of projects for some States including West Bengal, Haryana and Kerala. The announcements included programmes within the purview of financial Institutions and Plan non-Plan schemes of Central and State Governments.

Demand for liberal concessions by Non-resident Indians

1153. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pealsed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Non-Resident Indians have recently raised demands for some liberal concessions so that they could participate freely in the country's development;

(b) if so, what are the details of the demands; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Demands made by Non-Resident Indians for more concessions and incentives to make investment in India are examined on a continuous basis and suitable changes effected in the NRI investment policy and procedure wherever necessary.

1154. [*Transferred to the 10th March, 1987*].

Review of FERA

1155. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have under consideration a

proposal to review the F.E.R.A. (Foreign Exchange Regulation Act); and

(b) if so, the details of the specific proposals under consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Government of India have received some suggestions for amending the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and these are being examined.

Fraud case Navasari Branch of SBI

1156. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that important files and documents pertaining to a vital fraud case of over rupees 3 crores in the Navsari Branch of the State Bank of India in Gujarat involving some senior bank officials are missing;

(b) if so, what are the deails thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to trace the missing documents besides fixing responsibility for the mischief; and

(d) what is the result of the investigations made into the fraud case stating the action taken by Government against the officials involved in the fraud?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case under Sections 130 (b), 420, 467, 471, 477A, IPC read with Section 5(2) & 5(1) (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 against the Managing Director and other Directors of M|s Meghdoot Dyeing & Printing Mills Ltd., Navsari and M|s Gita Fabrics (P) Ltd., alongwith two officials of State Bank of India. The case is at the investigation stage. Some files containing copies of documents which are relevant to the case are reported to have been misplaced and are not traceable in the Laghu Udyog branch of State Bank of India. State Bank of India has taken steps to trace the files. Further action can be taken only after completion of the investigations by CBI.

Increase in the working hours of Central Government Employees

1157. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of representation have been received by Government in protest against the increase in working hours of Central Government employees by half-an-hour;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no useful purpose is served by increasing the working hours as it amounts to decrease in efficiency of the employees; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to reduce the timings by half-an-hour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIR (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In fact, the Central 4th Pay Commission recommended the increase in working hours in the